EXHIBIT A

STATE OF INDIANA)	SS:	IN THE ALLEN SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF ALLEN)	55.	CAUSE NO
COREY PRESTON,)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
FORGE INDUSTRIAL ST and BERNE APPAREL CO		-)))
Defendants.)

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff alleges against Defendants as follows:

- 1. The Plaintiff is Corey Preston who is an African American/black individual who worked as a temporary employee for Forge Industrial Staffing, Inc. since July 2014 and who was suspended from his assignment at Berne Apparel Company. Both "Forge" and "Berne" are co-employer/joint employers of the Plaintiff as they both affected the terms, conditions, privileges and benefits of his employment.
- 2. Defendant Forge Industrial Staffing, Inc. is a corporation authorized to do business in the State of Indiana and does so at 1010 W. Coliseum Boulevard, Suite A, Fort Wayne Indiana 46808. "Forge" is an "employer" for purposes of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq. ("Title VII").
- 3. Defendant Berne Apparel Company ("Berne") is a company doing business at 2501 East 850 North, Ossian Indiana 46777. Berne is an "employer" for purposes of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq*. ("Title VII").

- 4. Plaintiff filed Charges of Discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"), No. 24D-2018-00167 and No. 24D-2018-00168, both of which are attached hereto, made a part hereof and incorporated herein as Exhibits "A" and "B". The EEOC issued a Dismissal and Notice of Rights for both Charges on August 20, 2018 and they are attached hereto as Exhibits "C" and "D".
- 5. As against Forge, Plaintiff claims that he reported his "Berne" supervisor for sexual harassment and that Forge suspended his assignment at Berne. Plaintiff also claims that he was demoted and suffered a pay decrease. Plaintiff alleges that this was done on the basis of his race and sex, and that he suffered discrimination and retaliation. On March 2, 2018, Forge told Complainant that his assignment at Berne was terminated. Plaintiff alleges that his suspension, demotion and termination were retaliatory because he reported his supervisor's sexual harassment. Furthermore, Forge has failed to provide Plaintiff any work assignments since these events.
- 6. As against Berne, Plaintiff claims that he repeatedly reported his supervisor (Sherry Cox) for sexual harassment, i.e. making inappropriate gestures toward Plaintiff. Plaintiff complained to his Forge onsite supervisor, as well as the Berne Plant Manager. Plaintiff contends that the conduct was sexual in nature and that it occurred because of his sex. Nothing was done as a result of his complaints. On February 18, 2018, Plaintiff reported Sherry Cox after she "flipped off" Plaintiff and told him "stick these up my butt." Plaintiff was retaliated against and was suspended without pay and demoted from his lead position, which included a pay decrease. On March 2, 2018, Plaintiff's assignment was terminated, resulting in a retaliatory discharge.

7. The actions of the Defendants were intentional and in reckless disregard of Plaintiff's federally protected civil rights under Title VII and 42 U.S.C. § 1981 which prohibits employers from discriminating against employees on the basis of their race. Plaintiff suffered the loss of his job and job-related benefits including income. Plaintiff experienced mental anguish, emotional distress, financial distress, humiliation, embarrassment, inconvenience and other damages and injuries for which he seeks compensatory damages.

8. Plaintiff seeks punitive damages against the Defendants, and each of them.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against the Defendants, for compensatory damages, punitive damages, reasonable attorney's fees and costs, and for all other just and proper relief in the premises.

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure, Plaintiff demands a trial by jury in this action.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHER C. MYERS & ASSOCIATES

/s/ Christopher C. Myers

Christopher C. Myers, #10043-02 809 South Calhoun Street, Suite 400

Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Telephone:

(260) 424-0600

Facsimile:

(260) 424-0712

E-mail:

cmyers@myers-law.com

Counsel for Plaintiff

USDC IN/ND case 1:18-cv-0041**02DQ9-1310-C**TeQQQ658t 2-1 filed 12/12/18 page 5 16 8 2018 9:45 AM

Allen Superior Court 9

Allen County, Indiana

BB

Agency(ies) Charge No(s): Charge Presented To: CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATION EC-0041-A18 This form is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974. See enclosed Privacy Act **FEPA** Statement and other information before completing this form. **EEOC** 24D-2018-00167 City of Fort Wayne Metro Human Relations Commission and EEOC State or local Agency, if any Home Phone (Incl. Area Code) Date of Birth Name (indicate Mr., Ms., Mrs.) 1969 (260) 203-7629 **Corey Preston** City, State and ZIP Code Street Address 137 East Dewald Street, Apartment 1b, Fort Wayne, IN 46803 Named is the Employer, Labor Organization, Employment Agency, Apprenticeship Committee, or State or Local Government Agency That I Believe Discriminated Against Me or Others. (If more than two, list under PARTICULARS below.) Phone No. (Include Area Code) No. Employees, Members 15 - 100 (888) 772-3763 BERNE APPAREL City, State and ZIP Code Street Address 2501 E 850 N, Ossian, IN 46777 No. Employees, Members City, State and ZIP Code Street Address DATE(S) DISCRIMINATION TOOK PLACE DISCRIMINATION BASED ON (Check appropriate box(es).) Earliest Latest 03-02-2018 NATIONAL ORIGIN 07-01-2017 RELIGION SEX COLOR RACE GENETIC INFORMATION DI\$ABILITY X RETALIATION CONTINUING ACTION OTHER (Specify) THE PARTICULARS ARE (If additional paper is needed, attach extra sheet(s)): I am a qualified individual who was sent to work for Berne Apparel ("Berne") from Forge Industrial Staffing ("Forge") since July 2014. During my assignment, I have repeatedly reported my Berne supervisor Sherry Cox ("Cox") for making inappropriate gestures towards me to Forge onsite supervisor Sam and Berne plant manager Phil Gibson ("Gibson"). I believe the conduct was sexual in nature and because of my sex, male. In July 2017, I reported my concerns again to members of management. However, nothing was addressed. On February 28, 2018, I reported Cox after she flipped me off and told me to "stick these up my butt." As a result, I was suspended without pay and demoted from my lead position which included a pay decrease per an agreement to continue my assignment. On March 2, 2018, my assignment was ended. For these reasons, I believe I have been sexually harassed on the basis of my sex, male, and retaliated against in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. NOTARY - When necessary for State and Local Agency Requirements I want this charge filed with both the EEOC and the State or local Agency, if any. I will advise the agencies if I change my address or phone number and I will cooperate fully with them in the processing of my charge in accordance with their I swear or affirm that I have read the above charge and that it is true to procedures. the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct. SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT SUBSCRIPED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS DATE (month, day, year) Mar 12, 2018 Charging Party Signature Date

USDC IN/ND case 1:18-cv-00414-HAB-SLC document 2-1 filed 12/12/18 page 6 of 8

EEOC Form 5 (11/09) Charge Presented To: Agency(ies) Charge No(s): CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATION This form is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974. See enclosed Privacy Act **FEPA** EC-0042-A18 Statement and other information before completing this form. **EEOC** 24D-2018-00168 City of Fort Wayne Metro Human Relations Commission and EEOC State or local Agency, if any Home Phone (Incl. Area Code) Date of Birth Name (indicate Mr., Ms., Mrs.) (260) 203-7629 1969 **Corey Preston** City, State and ZIP Code Street Address 137 East Dewald Street, Apartment 1b, Fort Wayne, IN 46803 Named is the Employer, Labor Organization, Employment Agency, Apprenticeship Committee, or State or Local Government Agency That I Believe Discriminated Against Me or Others. (If more than two, list under PARTICULARS below.) Phone No. (Include Area Code) No. Employees, Members 15 - 100 (260) 471-5900 FORGE INDUSTRIAL STAFFING City, State and ZIP Code 1010 West Coliseum Boulevard, Suite A. Fort Wayne, IN 46808 Phone of (Include Area) No. Employees, Members Name ਨ City, State and ZIP Code 3 Street Address DATE(S) DISCRIMINATION TOOK PLACE DISCRIMINATION BASED ON (Check appropriate box(es).) **Earliest** Latest COLOR SEX RELIGION NATIONAL ORIGIN 02-28-2018 03-02-2018 RACE GENETIC INFORMATION RETALIATION DISABILITY CONTINUING ACTION OTHER (Specify) THE PARTICULARS ARE (If additional paper is needed, attach extra sheet(s)): I am a qualified black individual who has worked as a temporary employee for Forge Industrial Staffing ("Forge") since July 2014. On February 28, 2018, I was suspended from my assignment at Berne Apparel ("Berne") after I reported my Berne supervisor Sherry Cox ("Cox"). I was also demoted which included a pay decrease. On March 2, 2018, Forge manager Terra Ditton ("Ditton") informed me that my assignment at Berne was terminated. I informed Ditton that I felt my suspension, demotion and termination was because I reported Cox's conduct. Forge has also not given me a work assignment since then. For these reasons, I believe I have been discriminated against on the basis of my race, black and sex. male in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. NOTARY - When necessary for State and Local Agency Requirements I want this charge filed with both the EEOC and the State or local Agency, if any. will advise the agencies if I change my address or phone number and I will cooperate fully with them in the processing of my charge in accordance with their procedures. I swear or affirm that I have read the above charge and that it is true to I declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct. the best of my knowledge, information and belief. SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS DATE Mar 12, 2018 (month, day, year) Date Charging Party Signature

Ex. B

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EEOC Form 161 (11/16)

215 E. Berry Street P.O. Box 2263 Fort Wayne, IN 46802

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS								
To: Corey Preston 137 East Dewald Street, Apartment 1B Fort Wayne, IN 46803			From:					
		son(s) aggrieved whos (29 CFR §1601.7(a))	e identity is					
EEOC Charg		EEOC Representa	tive		Telephone No.			
		Frederick J. B	ruBaker,					
24D-2018-	00167	Enforcement :	Superviso r		(317) 226-7350			
THE EEO	C IS CLOSING ITS FILE	ON THIS CHARG	GE FOR THE FOLLO	WING REASON:				
	The facts alleged in the c	harge fail to state a	claim under any of the s	tatutes enforced by the	EEOC.			
Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act.								
	The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.							
	Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge							
Х	The EEOC issues the following determination: Based upon its investigation, the EEOC is unable to conclude that the information obtained establishes violations of the statutes. This does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. No finding is made as to any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.							
	The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge.							
	Other (briefly state)							
			CE OF SUIT RIGHT onal information attached to					
Discrimina You may fil lawsuit mu	e a lawsuit against the r	ct: This will be the espondent(s) und IAYS of your rec	e only notice of dismis er federal law based o eipt of this notice; o	sal and of your right on this charge in fed r your right to sue ba	Act, or the Age to sue that we will send you. eral or state court. Your ased on this charge will be			
alleged EP	Act (EPA): EPA suits m A underpayment. This m I file suit may not be co	leans that backpa	eral or state court withing due for any violation	in 2 years (3 years foons that occurred n	or willful violations) of the nore than 2 years (3 years)			
	_	201	On behalf of the Comm	mission for '	AUG 2 0 2018			
Enclosures(s			Michelle Eisele, District Director	l	(Date Mailed)			
cc: BE	ERNE APPAREL							
c/e	o Anthony M. Stites ARRETT MCNAGNY							

Ex. C

EEOC Form 161 (11/16)

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

	DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS							
To:				From:				
On behalf of person(s) aggrieved whose identity is CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a))					•			
EEOC Charge No, EEOC Representative								Telephone No.
Frederick J. BruBaker,					=			
24	24D-2018-00168 Enforcement Supervis		Supervisor			(317) 226-7350		
TH	E EEO	C IS CLOSING	ITS FILE ON TH	IIS CHAF	RGE FOR THE	FOLLO	WING REASON:	
		The facts allege	ed in the charge fa	il to state	a claim under an	y of the s	statutes enforced by	the EEOC.
	Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act.							
	The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.							
	Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge							
	The EEOC issues the following determination: Based upon its investigation, the EEOC is unable to conclude that the information obtained establishes violations of the statutes. This does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. No finding is made as to any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.							
	The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge.							cy that investigated this charge.
		Other (briefly st	ate)					
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Disc You laws lost.	crimina may fi suit mu (The t	ation in Employ e a lawsuit aga st be filed <u>WIT</u> ime limit for filin	ment Act: This inst the respond HIN 90 DAYS of g suit based on a	will be the ent(s) und f your red a claim un	e only notice o der federal law ceipt of this n der state law m	f dismis based o otice; o nay be d	sal and of your right this charge in the ryour right to sue ifferent.)	on Act, or the Age ght to sue that we will send you. dederal or state court. Your based on this charge will be s for willful violations) of the
alleç	ged EP	A underpaymen		at backp				d more than 2 years (3 years)
				201	On behalf of t	he Comr	mission _fw	AUG 2 0 2018
Encl	losures(s)		7	Michelle Eis District Dire		6	(Date Mailed)
cc:	FC	RGE INDUSTR	RIAL STAFFING	ì				
		o William Duga AKER & MCKE						

Ex. D

300 East Randolph, Suite 5000

Chicago, IL 60601